



WORLD MISSION FINDINGS FROM THE FEBRUARY 2013 SURVEY

The Presbyterian Panel consists of three nationally representative samples of groups affiliated with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.): members, ruling elders serving on session, and teaching elders (ministers). For most analyses, teaching elders are split into two groups based on current call: *pastors*, serving congregations, and *specialized ministers*, serving elsewhere. New samples are drawn every three years. These pages summarize major findings from the sixth survey completed by the 2012-2014 Panel, sampled in the summer of 2011.

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WORLD MISSION PRIORITIES

Awareness of Critical Global Issues

- ✓ When asked whether they were aware before receiving the survey that Presbyterian World Mission (PWM) is focusing its work on a small number of critical global issues, fewer than a fourth of members (22%) and ruling elders (23%) and only about a third of pastors (30%) and specialized ministers (33%) said “yes.”
- ✓ Among the minority of panelists who had previously been aware of the focus on three critical global issues:
 - Large majorities (members, 83%; ruling elders, 87%; pastors, 92%; specialized ministers, 86%) were aware that *poverty* is one area of focus.
 - Slightly smaller majorities were aware that *evangelism* is an area of focus (76%; 72%; 81%; 76%).
 - Smaller majorities of members (58%) and ruling elders (55%) but similar majorities of teaching elders (80% each) were aware that *reconciliation* is one area of focus.

Opinions about World Mission Priorities

- ✓ Panelists were asked how important it is for PWM to concentrate its work on each of the three critical global issues.
 - Very large majorities of panelists report that it is “very important” or “somewhat important” for PWM to focus efforts on poverty (members, 88%; ruling elders, 94%; pastors, 96%; specialized ministers, 97%).
 - Slightly fewer panelists, but still large majorities, feel that it is “very important” or “somewhat important” for PWM to focus on evangelism (80%; 88%; 88%; 85%).

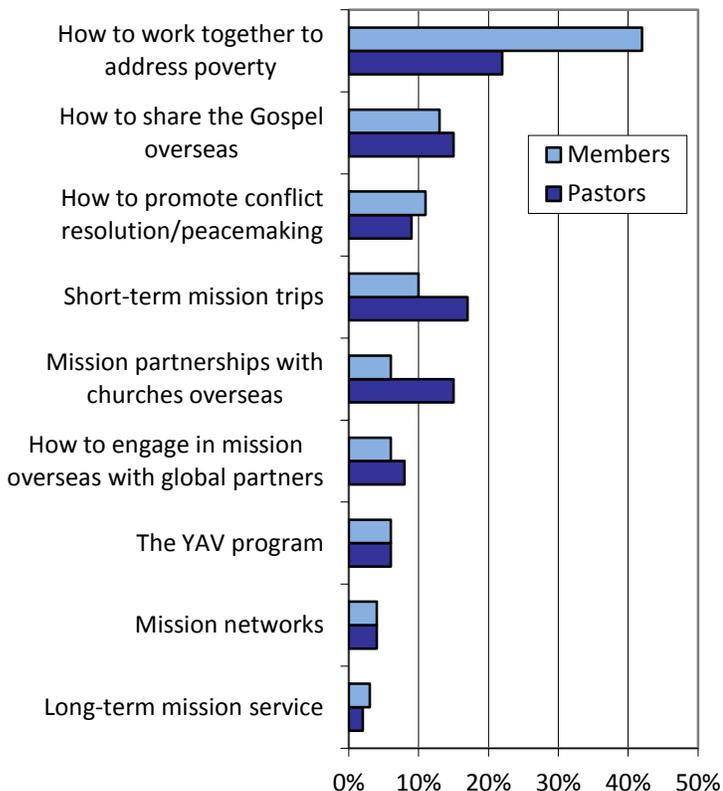
- Similar majorities of pastors (89%) and specialized ministers (91%) but slightly smaller majorities of members (67%) and ruling elders (78%) feel that it is “very important” or “somewhat important” for PWM to focus on reconciliation.
- ✓ Given a list of nine more-specific areas of focus related to the three critical global issues, panelists were asked which *two* they would say are the *highest priorities* on which PWM should focus.
 - ✓ The four areas selected most frequently by members, ruling elders, and specialized ministers are:
 - Supporting victims and survivors of violence (members, 37%; ruling elders, 33%; pastors, 18%; specialized ministers, 26%)
 - Supporting community health and addressing poverty-related diseases through Community Health Evangelism and other programs (32%; 38%; 36%; 42%)
 - Empowering marginalized groups of people through literacy and basic education (32%; 36%; 35%; 35%)
 - Working with partner organizations to share the good news of Jesus Christ (22%; 22%; 40%; 26%)
 - ✓ Pastors choose three of these same priorities among their top four: supporting community health, empowering marginalized groups, and working with partner organizations. The fourth top-priority area chosen by pastors (19%) is promoting economic justice.
 - ✓ Other areas of PWM focus (theological education and leadership development, support for the church in areas where Christianity is a minority religion, facilitating biblically-based peacemaking, and helping to prevent violence) were chosen as priorities by fewer than 20% of any group.

CONGREGATIONAL INTEREST & INVOLVEMENT

Interest in World Mission Speakers and Topics

- ✓ Panelists currently involved in congregations were asked their level of interest in having a visiting representative of PWM discuss each of nine topics. A majority of ruling elders, pastors, and specialized ministers—and 49% or more of members—express either “strong interest” or “some interest” in each topic, with the highest totals for:
 - How Presbyterians can work together to address poverty, especially as it affects women and children (members, 78%; ruling elders, 86%; pastors, 86%; specialized ministers, 91%)
 - How Presbyterians can work to promote non-violent conflict resolution and peacemaking (67%; 68%; 71%; 83%)
 - How Presbyterians can engage in mission overseas in cooperation with global partners (65%; 70%; 78%; 77%)
 - How Presbyterians can work with Christians overseas to share the Gospel (62%; 71%; 74%; 60%)
- ✓ Poverty is selected most often when panelists are asked to pick the one topic of the nine that they would be most interested in hearing a representative from Presbyterian World Mission discuss on a visit to their congregation, but no single topic is chosen by a majority. (See Figure 1.)

Figure 1. The One Topic Panelists Are Most Interested in Hearing a PWM Speaker Discuss in their Congregation



- ✓ Two-thirds or more of panelists currently involved in congregations report being “very interested” or “somewhat interested” in having a PC(USA) missionary speak to their congregation during the next year (members, 68%; ruling elders, 74%; pastors, 77%; specialized ministers, 79%).

Interest in World Mission Resources

- ✓ Majorities of panelists involved in congregations believe that each of six types of global-mission resources would be “very useful” or “somewhat useful” for their congregations:
 - How your congregation can support and partner with a missionary (members, 63%; ruling elders, 61%; pastors, 69%; specialized ministers, 65%)
 - Best practices for congregational mission committees (58%; 63%; 77%; 80%)
 - How to find and use programs and resources from PWM (58%; 60%; 62%; 65%)
 - Making mission funding decisions (56%; 59%; 64%; 69%)
 - Best practices for short-term overseas mission trips (56%; 53%; 63%; 74%)
 - Best practices for developing a long-term mission partnership between your congregation and a church overseas (53%; 57%; 69%; 73%)

How Congregations Are Involved in World Mission

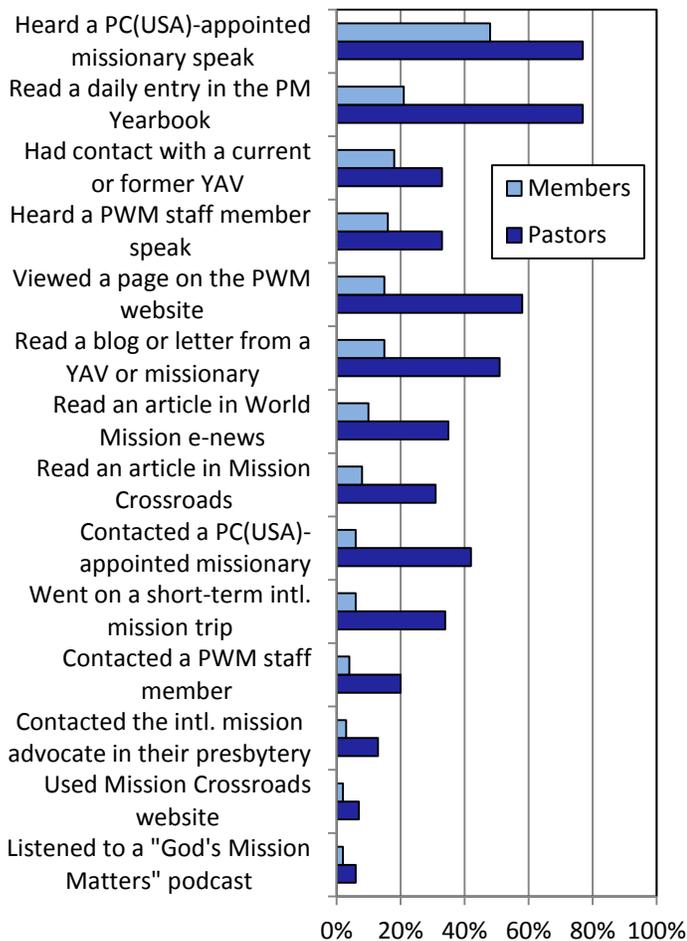
- ✓ Of panelists involved in congregations, majorities in at least one group report that their congregation has been involved in mission in each of four ways in the past two years:
 - A group of people going on a mission trip outside the United States (members, 65%; ruling elders, 56%; pastors, 47%; specialized ministers, 61%)
 - Praying for or corresponding with a PC(USA) missionary (52%; 54%; 53%; 54%)
 - Hosting a minister or other religious leader from outside the United States (48%; 46%; 46%; 62%)
 - Having a regular or ongoing committee concerned with global mission (44%; 49%; 57%; 54%)
- ✓ Somewhat fewer but at least one in five panelists in each group report their congregation has been involved in four other mission activities over the past two years:
 - A current or former PWM missionary visiting their congregation to speak (members, 48%; ruling elders, 48%; pastors, 41%; specialized ministers, 50%)
 - Having a continuing church-to-church relationship with a congregation outside the United States (42%; 37%; 28%; 37%)
 - A church school class or other group doing a special study on global mission (30%; 26%; 36%; 45%)
 - Involvement in mission through their presbytery’s international partnership (21%; 21%; 29%; 25%)

MISSION INVOLVEMENT OF PANELISTS

Mission-Related Activities

- ✓ Panelists were asked how many times in the past two years they had personally done each of 14 mission-related activities.
- ✓ Overall, pastors and specialized ministers report participation in all of these activities with greater frequency than members and ruling elders. The frequencies with which they have done these activities, however, follow a similar pattern. (See Figure 2, which shows results for members and pastors.)

Figure 2. Percent of Members and Pastors Who Report Doing Each of 14 Mission-Related Activities at Least Once in the Past Two Years



- ✓ Hearing a PC(USA)-appointed missionary speak was the most frequently reported activity in each Panel group (members, 48%; ruling elders, 55%; pastors, 77%; specialized ministers, 67%).
- ✓ Reading a daily entry in the *Presbyterian Mission Yearbook for Prayer & Study* was the second most frequently reported activity in all Panel groups, except that it tied for first place among pastors (members, 21%; ruling elders, 29%; pastors, 77%; specialized ministers, 63%).

- ✓ Similarly, many more pastors and specialized ministers than members and ruling elders report doing each of the other 12 activities at least one time in the past two years:
 - Having contact with a current or former Young Adult Volunteer to learn more about their experience in the YAV program (members, 18%; ruling elders, 17%; pastors, 33%; specialized ministers, 40%)
 - Hearing a PWM staff member (other than a missionary) speak (16%; 20%; 33%; 36%)
 - Viewing a page on the PWM website (15%; 26%; 55%; 58%)
 - Reading a blog post or letter from a YAV or PC(USA) missionary (15%; 18%; 51%; 43%)
 - Reading an article in PWM's *World Mission e-news* (10%; 11%; 35%; 35%)
 - Reading an article in *Mission Crossroads* (a PWM monthly print magazine) (8%; 13%; 31%; 24%)
 - Contacting a PC(USA)-appointed missionary (6%; 9%; 42%; 36%)
 - Going on a short-term international mission trip (6%; 9%; 34%; 22%)
 - Contacting a PWM staff member, other than a missionary (4%; 3%; 20%; 18%)
 - Contacting the PC(USA) international mission advocate in their presbytery (3%; 3%; 13%; 8%)
 - Using the Mission Crossroads website (2%; 1%; 7%; 6%)
 - Listening to a "God's Mission Matters" podcast (2%; 2%; 6%; 7%)
- ✓ When asked whether they have personally received a newsletter, e-newsletter, or other regular correspondence from a PC(USA) missionary in the past two years, many fewer members (9%) and ruling elders (14%) respond "yes" than pastors (43%) and specialized ministers (32%).

Committee, Network, and Conference Participation

- ✓ About one-fourth of members (26%) and one-half of pastors (52%) in the Panel are currently or have ever been members of a congregational mission committee.
- ✓ Only 6% of ruling elders and 33% of pastors have served or are currently serving as a member of a presbytery or synod mission committee.
- ✓ Only a tenth of members (10%) but a third of pastors (34%) either participate currently or have participated in a PC(USA)-related mission network.
- ✓ No more than 2% in any Panel group report attending either of two PWM-sponsored events: The 2009 World Mission Celebration in Cincinnati and the 2011 World Mission Matters Conference (part of the Indianapolis Big Tent event). Somewhat more report hosting a missionary or hearing a missionary speak during the 2009 nationwide World Mission Challenge (members, 6%; ruling elders, 5%; pastors, 17%; specialized ministers, 13%).

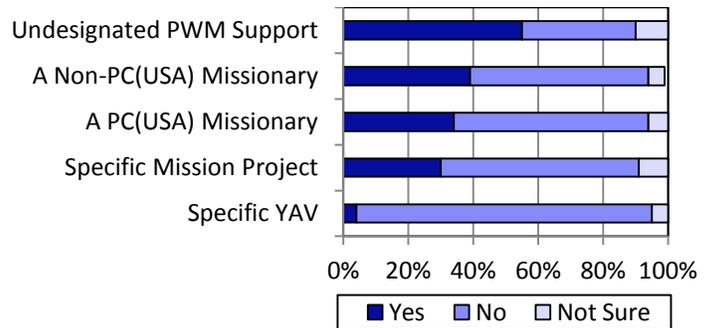
Personal Contributions to World Mission

- ✓ Around a third of panelists report making personal financial contributions to support the work of a specific PC(USA) overseas mission project in the past two years (members, 29%; ruling elders, 34%; pastors, 37%; specialized ministers, 34%).
- ✓ Slightly more panelists report that in the past two years they financially supported the work of a non-PC(USA) missionary or missionary couple (members, 23%; ruling elders, 20%; pastors, 36%; specialized ministers, 27%) than report supporting the work of a specific PC(USA) missionary or missionary couple (15%; 20%; 24%; 26%).
- ✓ Many fewer panelists report financially supporting the work of a specific PC(USA) Young Adult Volunteer over the same period (members, 7%; ruling elders, 9%; pastors, 9%; specialized ministers, 10%).

Congregational Contributions to World Mission

- ✓ Among panelists involved in congregations, large minorities of all groups except for pastors respond “not sure” when asked whether their congregation’s 2013 budget contains funds designated to support the work of each of five specific mission causes.
- ✓ Due to the high number of “not sure” responses among members, ruling elders, and specialized ministers, we report responses only for pastors in this summary. (See Figure 3.)

Figure 3. Pastor’s Responses When Asked Whether Their Congregation Is Contributing Funds from its 2013 Budget for Selected Mission Causes



- ✓ As reported by pastors:
 - A majority of congregations have budgeted funds to support mission (55%) without designating how those funds should be spent (*Shared Mission Support*).
 - Nearly four in ten congregations (39%) have budgeted funds to support the work of one or more non-PC(USA) missionaries, whether directly or through a non-PC(USA) mission-sending organization.
 - About one-third (34%) of congregations have budgeted funds to support the work of one or more specific PC(USA) missionaries.
 - A little less than a third (30%) of congregations have budgeted funds to support a specific PC(USA) overseas mission project.
 - Only 4% of congregations have budgeted funds to support one or more specific PC(USA) Young Adult Volunteers.

| | Members | Ruling Elders | Teaching Elders |
|---------------------------------------|---------|---------------|-----------------|
| Number of surveys sent | 973 | 1,375 | 1,449 |
| Number of ineligible respondents..... | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| Number of surveys completed..... | 372 | 685 | 792‡ |
| Response rate..... | 38% | 49% | 54% |

‡Of the 792 returned surveys, 580 came from pastors and 212 from specialized ministers.

The survey was distributed on February 19, 2013, with returns accepted through May 31, 2013. Results are subject to sampling and other errors. Small differences should be interpreted cautiously. In general, differences of less than 8% between samples are not statistically meaningful.

For more numbers and interpretation of these results, a report will be available on the web or (for \$15) from Presbyterian Distribution Service (800-524-2612; order PDS# 20056-13319). It will include tables with percentage responses to each survey question.

For more information about Presbyterian World Mission, the entity that sponsored this survey, visit: www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/world-mission/.

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